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PTO/SB/21 (08-03)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/709,305	
	Filing Date	April 28, 2004	
	First Named Inventor	Katsuhiko Itakura	
	Art Unit	(to be assigned)	
	Examiner Name	(to be assigned)	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	21	Attorney Docket Number	39.036

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
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<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Judge Patent Firm
Signature	
Date	August 12, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/709,305  
Applicant : Katsuhiro Itakura  
Filed : April 28, 2004  
Tech. Cntr./Art Unit : (To be assigned)  
Examiner : (To be assigned)  
  
Docket No. : 39.036  
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

### **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

This constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The attached documents listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08A are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention in the patent application identified above.

### **REMARKS**

All of the presently submitted references, i.e., Cite Nos. F1 through F3 as listed on Form PTO/SB/08A, are not in English.

### **Concise Explanation of Relevance/Copy of Translation** **Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)**

A concise explanation of the relevance of each of Cite Nos. F1 and F2 is incorporated into the specification in the present application in paragraph [0005].

Furthermore, English abstracts of the three presently submitted references are available on the Japanese Patent Office website through Patent Abstracts of

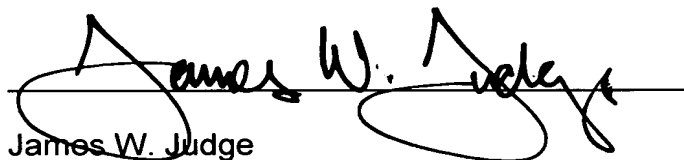
App. No. 10/709,305  
IDS Submission

Japan (PAJ), and a copy of the corresponding abstract is attached to the back of each reference. (Note that Cite Nos. F1 and F2 are each an issued Japanese *patent*, as opposed to a Japanese unexamined patent application publication, which is what Cite No. F3 is. Nevertheless, the English abstracts for Cite Nos. F1 and F2 are taken from, and numbered according to, the published corresponding patent *application*.)

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these references, and to indicate so on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08A and make the document of record in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

August 12, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Judge", is written over a horizontal line.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/709,305
				Filing Date	April 28, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Katsuhiro Itakura
				Art Unit	(To be assigned)
				Examiner Name	(To be assigned)
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	39,036

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. 1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	F1	JP-3,232,963-B2	09-21-2001	Hitachi Ltd		✓
	F2	JP-3,340,021-B2	08-16-2002	Senju Metal & Matsushita		✓
	F3	JP-S61-051951-A	03-14-1986	NEC Corp		✓

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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